Development of Calculator Code for Optimization of MFX Transfocator

Taryn Imamura¹, Theodore Rendahl²

¹Engineering Physics Department, Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford CA 94305, USA.
²Linac Coherent Light Source, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA.
trendahl@slac.stanford.edu

Introduction

In the MFX experimentation hutch, the Transfocator is a tunable apparatus that focuses X-rays through the application of compound refractive Beryllium lenses. The application and removal of these lenses allow for a wide range of energies and focal lengths for use in the hutch’s macromolecular crystallography experiments.

Keywords: Transfocator, Beryllium Lenses, Python, MFX, LCLS II

Development Process

To begin development of the Transfocator Calculator code, I learned Unix Shell, Git, and Python. Additionally, I learned basic optics. Coding for the Transfocator followed an iterative design process. For each new segment of the project, I worked with Teddy to define the attributes and functionality within the overall project. I would then write and test the code iteratively in terminal and document my code using Github and Sphinx. All tests were written either by myself or Teddy.

The Transfocator code is composed primarily of 3 primary classes: Lens, LensConnect, and Transfocator.

Classes and Functions

The Lens class stores information specific to individual lenses including radius, focal length, and position. Additionally, this class uses Equation 1 to calculate the location of the lens image along the beamline. This class was later extended to read from EPICS signals.

The LensConnect class combines individual Lenses into the systems of lenses shown in Figure 2. Results of Equation 1 can be compounded for lens arrays and this class was written to perform these operations. This class is also responsible for inserting a lens system.

The Transfocator class reads the EPICS signals for the slit and its safety limits and lens information. This class reads which lenses are already inserted and finds the current focal length of the inserted lenses. It then accesses methods from Calculator to find the optimal combination. It then inserts and removes the necessary lenses.

Equation 1: The thin lens equation for a single lens. The equation is iterated to calculate the image distance for a system of lenses.

Relevance

Several properties of the code contribute to the relevance at LCLS and LCLS II:

- Optimizes the experimental set up for MFX
- Automates delivery of beam to MFX
- Code is flexible and extensible so that it can be used for any hutch that focuses with Beryllium lenses
- Code is easily applied on the beamline
- Provides a framework for similar projects
- Automatically factors in safety limits, partially removing human error from MFX beam calibration
- Allows user with no knowledge of Transfocator to calibrate the machine

Future Development

The Transfocator Calculator code is near completion and the next step in its development is addition scanning scripts to reach a level accuracy not possible with models alone. Although the program has performed very well, passing ~55 tests, there remain several aspects that warrant further development.

Possible future developments include:

- Implementation of Bluesky scans to increase the accuracy of the focal point by using the feedback from a live camera
- Creation of iterative function that finds another solution is Bluesky shows the initial one is inaccurate
- Creation of an introduction and user guide to their Sphinx documentation (ongoing)
- Utilization of Calculator code for Beryllium lenses in other hutchs

The Transfocator Calculator code is available on SLAC Github for general viewing and use.

Purpose and Novelty

The purpose of this project was to optimize the calculation and implementation of Transfocator Beryllium lens combinations with a “Transfocator Calculator” code.

Novel attributes of the code include:

- Calculation of correct combination of prefocus and Transfocator lenses based solely on sample position regardless of user knowledge of previous Transfocator settings.
- Automated delivery of beam to MFX by calculating the optimal lens combination and applying necessary lenses within hutch safety constraints

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